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GOVERNORS OF NEW YORK

From 1777 to 1920

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GOVERNORS OF NEW YORK

From 1777 to 1920

1 and 3. GEORGE CLINTON (Anti-Fed.)

July, 1777–June, 1795

July, 1801–June, 1804

(Three-year terms)

Born in Ulster county, July 26, 1739

Died at Washington, April 30, 1812

- 1755 Ran away from home to fight French
Studied law in New York City — Admitted to bar
Clerk of Common Pleas, Ulster county
- 1765 Member of Colonial Legislature
- 1775–76 Member second Continental Congress
Voted for Declaration of Independence
Lieutenant of Rangers in expedition against Fort
Frontenac
- 1777 Brigadier-General of Militia
Elected Provincial Governor
- 1780–83–86–89–92–1801 Re-elected Governor
Suggested Erie Canal
- 1778 President of convention which ratified Federal
constitution
- 1780 Drove back savages in Mohawk valley
- 1792 Candidate of new republican party for Vice-
President (defeated)
- 1804–08 Vice-President
Opponents: 1777 Unopposed
1780 Unopposed
1783 Phillip Schuyler
1786 Unopposed
1789 Robert Yates
1792 John Jay (Fed.)
1801 Stephen Van Rensselaer (Fed.)

2. JOHN JAY (Fed.)

July 17, 1795–June, 1801

(Three-year terms)

Born in New York, December 12, 1745

Died, Westchester county, May 17, 1829

- 1764 Graduated Columbia (Kings) College
- 1774–77 Member Continental Congress — Wrote address to
Great Britain which Thomas Jefferson declared
a "production of the first pen in America"
Moved adoption of Declaration of Independence
- 1777 Drafted first Constitution of N. Y. State, which re-
mained the organic law until convention of
1822 — Proclaimed at Kingston — not submitted
to people
- 1778 Minister to Spain
Chief Justice of New York
- 1778–79 President Continental Congress
- 1783 Member of Peace Commission to negotiate treaties
with foreign nations
- 1784 Peace Commissioner — Signed treaty of Paris
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- 1789 First Chief Justice of United States
- 1792 Defeated for Governor
- 1794 Envoy Extraordinary to Great Britain to avert war
- 1795 Elected Governor
- 1798 Re-elected Governor
- 1799 Signed bill abolishing slavery in State
- 1801 Declined renomination for Governor and appoint-
ment as Chief Justice
Opponents: 1795 Robert Yates (Anti-Fed.)
1798 Robert R. Livingston (Rep.)

4. MORGAN LEWIS (Rep.)

July, 1804–June, 1807

Born, New York, October 16, 1754
Died, New York, April 7, 1844
1773 Graduated Princeton College
1775 Revolutionary soldier
1776 Quartermaster-General
1777 Present at Burgoyne's surrender
1783 Member of Assembly
1791 Attorney-General
1801 Chief Justice Supreme Court
1804–07 Governor
Founded common school fund
1813 Major-General — In command at Sacketts Harbor
and Clayton
Expedition against Montreal
Commanded forces in defense of New York
1811–14 State Senator
1821 Grand Master of Masons
Opponent: Aaron Burr (Fed.)

5. DANIEL D. TOMPKINS (Rep.)

July, 1807–February, 1817
(Three-year terms)

Born, Westchester county, June 21, 1774
Died, Staten Island, June 11, 1825
1795 Graduated from Columbia College
Lawyer
1801 Member of Constitutional Convention
1803 Member of Assembly
1805 March to July — Representative in Congress
(resigned)
1804–07 Associate Justice Supreme Court
1807–15 Governor — four terms
Advocated Erie canal
Law passed abolishing slavery in New York after
July 1, 1827
1812 Prorogued Legislature
1817 Resigned office of Governor to become Vice-
President
1817–21 Vice-President
1821 Offered Secretary of State by President Madison
(declined)
Opponents: 1807 Morgan Lewis (Fed.)
1810 Jonas Platt (Fed.)
1813 Stephen Van Rensselaer (Fed.)
1816 Rufus King (Fed.)

NOTE:—Governor Tompkins had no middle name. The "D" was added merely to distinguish him from another Daniel Tompkins who attended the same school or college. This fact was given by Governor Tompkins' granddaughter, Helene T. Tompkins of Somers, N. Y., to Bolton's History of Westchester County (page 233).

6. JOHN TAYLER (Acting Governor) (Rep.)

February, 1817–June, 1817

Born, New York, July 4, 1742

Died, Albany, April 19, 1829

1817 Became acting Governor on resignation of Governor
Tompkins

1760 Removed to Lake George and Oswego
Member Council between whites and Indians

1775 Commanded 1st Regiment, New York Troops

1776 Member Provincial Congress

1777 Member Council of Safety

1802–04 to 1810, 1811 to 1813 State Senator

1813–17 Lieutenant-Governor

1811 President pro tem. of Senate

7 and 9. DE WITT CLINTON (Rep. and Ind.)

July, 1817–December, 1822
January, 1825–February, 1828

(One three-year term)

(One two-year term)

(Two two-year terms)

Born, Little Britain, March 2, 1769

Died, Albany, February 11, 1828

1789 Graduated Columbia College

Admitted to bar

1790–96 Secretary of Gov. George Clinton

1794 Major of Artillery

1798 Member of Assembly

1798 to 1802, 1806 to 1817 State Senator

1801 Member Constitutional Convention

1802–03 United States Senator (resigned)

Opposed invasion of Louisiana

1803 to 1807, 1810 to 1814 Mayor New York City

1810 Explored route for Erie canal

1811–13 Lieutenant-Governor

1812 Defeated for President

1816 Canal Commissioner

1817–22, 1824–28 Governor

1820 Declined renomination

1825 Offered Minister to England by President Adams
(declined)

1826 Opened Erie canal

Opponents: 1817 Peter B. Porter (Fed.)

1820 Daniel D. Tompkins (Rep.)

1824 Samuel Young (Rep.)

1826 William B. Rochester (Rep.)

8. JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER YATES (Rep.)

1823–1824

Born, Schenectady, November 9, 1768

Died, Schenectady, March 19, 1837

Lawyer — One of the founders of Union College

1798 Mayor of Schenectady

1806–07–08 State Senator

1822 Governor

Opponent: Solomon Southwick (Ind.)

10. NATHANIEL PITCHER (Acting Governor) (Ind.)

February to December, 1828

Born, Litchfield, Conn., 1777
Died, Sandy Hill, May 25, 1836
1828 Became Governor on death of DeWitt Clinton
1806, 1815-17 Member of Assembly
1812 Surrogate of Washington county
1821 Member Constitutional Convention
1819-23, 1831-32 Representative in Congress
1826 Lieutenant-Governor

11. MARTIN VAN BUREN (Dem.)

January to March, 1829

Born, Kinderhook, December 5, 1782
Died, Kinderhook, July 24, 1862
1808-13 Surrogate of Columbia county
1813-20 State Senator
1815-19 Attorney-General
1821 Delegate to Constitutional Convention
1821-27 United States Senator
1828 Resigned as United States Senator
1828 Governor
1828 Resigned as Governor
1829-31 Secretary of State under Jackson
1831 Nominated Minister to Great Britain
 Nomination rejected
1832-36 Vice-President
1836-40 President
1840 Defeated for re-election
1848 Anti-slavery candidate for President (defeated)
 Opponents: Smith Thompson (Rep.)
 Solomon Southwick (Ind.)

12. ENOS THOMPSON THROOP (Dem.)

March, 1829-December, 1832

Born, Johnstown, August 21, 1784
Died, Auburn, November 1, 1874
1829 Became Governor on resignation of Van Buren
1811 Clerk of Cayuga county
1815-16 Representative in Congress (resigned, 1816)
1823-27 Circuit Judge
1828 Lieutenant-Governor
1830 Governor — Refused renomination
1833-38 Naval Officer, New York
1838-42 Minister to Naples
 Opponent: Francis Granger (Rep.)

13. WILLIAM LEARNED MARCY (Dem.)

1833-1838

Born, Massachusetts, December 12, 1786 (Three-year Terms)

Died, Ballston Springs, July 4, 1857

1808 Graduated Brown University

1810 Lieutenant New York Militia

1816 Recorder of Troy
Editor Troy Budget

1821 Adjutant-General

1823 Comptroller

1829 Associate Justice Supreme Court

1831-32 United States Senator (resigned)

Author of policy, "To the victor belongs the spoils."

1833-38 Governor
Advocated lateral canals

1838 Defeated for Governor

1839-42 Member Commission on Mexican Claims

1845-49 Secretary of War

1853-57 Secretary of State

Opponents: 1832 Francis Granger (Rep.)

1834 William H. Seward (Whig)

1836 Jesse Buel (Whig)

14. WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD (Whig)

1838-1841

(Two-year terms)

Born, Florida, Orange county, May 16, 1801

Died, Auburn, October 10, 1872

1820 Graduated Union College

1822 Admitted to bar

1823 Lawyer at Auburn

1831-34 State Senator

1834 Defeated for Governor

1838-41 Governor
Recommended abolition of capital punishment,
and return of fugitive slaves

1848 Delivered eulogy on John Quincy Adams in Legis-
lature

1849-61 United States Senator
Advocated abolition of slavery in District of
Columbia

Introduced bill for construction of Pacific railroad

Delivered orations on deaths of Clay and Webster

1859 Visited Europe

1861-69 Secretary of State

1865 Wounded by assassin

1867 Contracted for purchase of Alaska

1870 Made tour of the world

Opponents: 1838 William L. Marcy (Dem.)

1840 William C. Bouck (Dem.)

1842 Luther Bradish (Dem.)

15. WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER BOUCK (Dem.)

1843-1844

Born, Schoharie county, January 7, 1786
Died, Schoharie county, April 9, 1869
1812 Sheriff of Schoharie county
1814-15-16-18 Member of Assembly
1819 Colonel 18th Regiment Infantry
1820-22 State Senator
1821-40 Canal Commissioner
Advocated enlargement of State Canals
First canal boat on canal named for him
1840 Defeated for Governor
1842 Elected Governor
1846 Member Constitutional Convention
1846-48 Assistant United States Treasurer
Opponent: Luther Bradish (Whig)

16. SILAS WRIGHT (Dem.)

1845-1846

Born, Amherst, Mass., May 24, 1795
Died, Canton, August 27, 1847
1815 Graduated Middlebury College
1819 Admitted to bar
1821-24 Surrogate St. Lawrence county
1825-26 Postmaster of Canton
1824-27 State Senator
1829-30 Representative in Congress
1830-33 Comptroller (resigned)
1833-44 United States Senator
1844 Governor
1846 Defeated for Governor
Opponent: Millard Fillmore (Whig)

17. JOHN YOUNG (Whig)

1847-1848

Born, Chelsea, Vt., June 12, 1802
Died, New York, April 23, 1852
1825 Admitted to bar
1831 Elected to Assembly by Anti-Masonic party
Livingston County
1832-45-46 Member of Assembly
1836-37, 1841-43 Representative in Congress
1846 Elected Governor
1849 Assistant United States Treasurer
Opponent: Silas Wright (Dem.)

18. HAMILTON FISH (Whig)

1849-1850

Born, New York, August 3, 1808
Died, Garrisons, September 7, 1893
1827 Graduated Columbia College
1830 Admitted to bar
1834 Defeated for Assembly
1844 Representative in Congress
1846 Defeated for Governor
1847 Lieutenant-Governor
1849-50 Governor
1851-56 United States Senator
1869-77 Secretary of State
Opponents: John A. Dix (Dem.)
Reuben H. Walworth (Ind.)

19. WASHINGTON HUNT (Whig) 1851-1852

Born, Windham, Greene county, August 5, 1811
 Died, New York, February 2, 1867
 1834 Admitted to bar
 1834 First judge Niagara county
 1843-49 Representative in Congress
 1849 Comptroller
 1851-52 Governor
 Recommended Agricultural College and Experi-
 mental Farm
 1852 Defeated for Governor
 1860 Declined nomination for Vice-President
 Opponent: Horatio Seymour (Dem.)

20. HORATIO SEYMOUR (Dem.) 1853-1854 1863-1864

Born, Pompey, May 31, 1810
 Died, Deerfield, February 12, 1886
 Educated Hobart College — Military Academy, Conn.
 1832 Admitted to bar (never practiced)
 1835-39 Military Secretary to Governor Marcy
 1842 Mayor of Utica
 1842-44-45 Member of Assembly
 1845 Speaker
 1843 Defeated for Assembly by three votes
 1850 Defeated for Governor
 1852 Elected Governor
 1853 Vetoed Prohibition bill
 1854 Defeated for Governor
 1857 Offered mission to Europe by Buchanan (declined)
 1862 Elected Governor
 1864 Defeated for Governor
 1868 Defeated for President
 Opponents: 1852 Washington Hunt (Whig)
 1862 James S. Wadsworth (Rep.)

21. MYRON HOLLEY CLARK (Whig) 1855-1856

Born, Naples, N. Y., October 23, 1806
 Died, Canandaigua, August 23, 1892
 1837 Elected Sheriff of Ontario county
 1850 Elected President of Canandaigua
 1852 Elected State Senator
 1854 Elected Governor by plurality of 305
 Secured passage of Prohibition law
 Approved law authorizing Albany bridge
 1862 Appointed first Collector of Internal Revenue in his
 district
 1874 Defeated for Governor
 Opponents: Horatio Seymour (Dem.)
 Daniel Ullman (K. N.)

22. JOHN ALSOP KING (Rep.)

1857-1858

Born, New York, January 3, 1788

Died, Jamaica, July 7, 1867

Admitted to bar

1812 Lieutenant of Cavalry

1819-20-21-38-40 Member of Assembly

1842 Secretary of legation to England

1849-50 Representative in Congress

1856 Elected Governor

Favored enlargement of Erie Canal and improvement of school system

1861 Member Peace Commission

1874-75 State Senator (resigned)

Opponents: Amasa J. Parker (Dem.)

Erastus Brooks (Am.)

23. EDWIN DENNISON MORGAN (Rep.)

1859-1862

Born, Massachusetts, February 8, 1811

Died, New York, February 14, 1883

1828 Grocer's clerk, Hartford

1836 Removed to New York (wholesale grocer)

1850-51-52-53 State Senator

1858 Elected Governor

1860 Re-elected Governor

Known as War Governor

1863-69 United States Senator

1876 Defeated for Governor

1881 Offered Secretary of Treasury by President Arthur (declined)

Opponents: 1858 Amasa J. Parker (Dem.)

1860 William Kelly (Dem.)

24. REUBEN EATON FENTON (Rep.)

1865-1868

Born, Carroll, N. Y., July 4, 1819

Died, Jamestown, August 24, 1885

Educated in public schools

Lumber merchant

1843-46-52 Supervisor

1853-54, 1857-64 Representative in Congress (resigned)

1862 Colonel 162d Regiment, New York State Militia

1864 Elected Governor

1866 Re-elected Governor

1869-75 United States Senator

1878 Chairman Monetary Conference, Paris

Opponents: 1864 Horatio Seymour (Dem.)

1866 John T. Hoffman (Dem.)

25. JOHN THOMPSON HOFFMAN (Dem.)

1869-1872

Born, Sing Sing, January 10, 1828

Died, Germany, March 24, 1888

1846 Graduated Union College

1849 Admitted to bar (age 21)

1860-64 Recorder New York

1865-68 Mayor of New York

1866 Defeated for Governor

1868 Elected Governor

1870 Re-elected Governor

Opponents: 1868 John A. Griswold (Rep.)

1870 Stewart L. Woodford (Rep.)

26. JOHN ADAMS DIX (Rep.)

1873-1874

Born, New Hampshire, July 24, 1795
 Died, New York, April 21, 1879
 1812 Cadet
 1813 Ensign in regiment sent to Canadian frontier by
 New Hampshire
 1814 Second Lieutenant, 21st New Hampshire Infantry
 1820 Admitted to bar in Warburgh
 1826 Special messenger to Copenhagen
 1827 Stationed at Fortress Monroe
 1828 Practiced law at Cooperstown
 1830 Removed to Albany and appointed Adjutant-
 General
 1833-39 Secretary of State and Superintendent of Common
 Schools
 1840 Edited "Northern Light"
 1842 Member of Assembly
 1845-49 United States Senator
 1848 Defeated for Governor
 1853 Assistant Treasurer of New York City
 1860 Postmaster of New York City
 1861 January to March — Secretary of Treasury
 Sent order, "If anyone attempts to haul down the
 American flag, shoot him on the spot."
 1861-65 Major-General
 1863 In command Fortress Monroe
 1866 Commander Department of East — Naval Officer
 1866-69 Minister to France
 1872 Elected Governor
 1874 Defeated for re-election
 Opponent: Francis Kernan (Dem.)

27. SAMUEL JONES TILDEN (Dem.)

1875-1876

Born, New Lebanon, February 9, 1814
 Died, Greystone, August 4, 1885
 1837 Graduated New York University
 1839 Admitted to the bar
 1846, 1872 Member of Assembly
 1846, 1867 Member Constitutional Convention
 1855 Defeated for Attorney-General
 Founded State Bar Association
 1874 Elected Governor
 1876 Defeated for President
 Opponent: John A. Dix (Rep.)

28. LUCIUS ROBINSON (Dem.)

1877-1879
 (Three-year term)

Born, Windham, November 4, 1810
 Died, Elmira, March 23, 1891
 Educated in public schools and Delhi Academy
 1832 Admitted to bar
 1837 District-Attorney of Greene county
 1843-47 Master in Chancery, New York City
 1860 Member of Assembly
 1861-65, 1875 Comptroller
 1876 Elected Governor
 1879 Defeated for Governor
 Opponents: 1876 Edwin D. Morgan (Rep.)
 1879 Alonzo B. Cornell (Rep.)

32. ROSWELL PETTIBONE FLOWER (Dem.)

1892-1894
(Three-year term)

Born, Theresa, N. Y., August 7, 1835
Died, Long Island, May 12, 1899
Educated and taught in public schools
1853-59 Deputy Postmaster of Watertown
1860-69 In business in Watertown
1869 Took up residence in New York City
1882-83, 1889-90 Representative in Congress
1885 Nominated for Lieutenant-Governor (declined)
1891 Elected Governor
Opponent: J. Sloat Fassett (Rep.)

33. LEVI PARSONS MORTON (Rep.)

1895-1896

Born, Shoreham, Vermont, May 16, 1824
Educated public schools
1838-40 Clerk, Enfield, Mass.
1840-41 Teacher, Boscowan, N. H.
1845 In business in Hanover, N. H.
1850 In Boston
1854 Dry goods merchant, New York City
1863 Banking
1876 Defeated for Congress
1878 Commissioner to Paris Exposition
1879-81 Representative in Congress (resigned 1881)
1881 Offered Secretary of Navy by President Garfield
(declined)
1881 Appointed Minister to France
1885 Defeated for U. S. Senator
1887 Defeated for U. S. Senator
1889-93 Vice-President
1894 Elected Governor
Opponent: David B. Hill (Dem.)

34. FRANK SWETT BLACK (Rep.)

1897-1898

Born, Maine, March 8, 1853
Died, Troy, March 21, 1913
1871 Graduated academy, Maine
1875 Graduated Dartmouth College
1879 Admitted to bar, Troy
1895 March to January 7, 1897 — Representative in Congress
1896 Elected Governor
Opponent: Wilbur F. Porter (Dem.)

35. THEODORE ROOSEVELT (Rep.)

1899-1900

Born, New York, October 27, 1858
Died, Oyster Bay, January 6, 1919
1882-84 Member of Assembly
1886 Defeated for Mayor of New York City
1889-95 Civil Service Commissioner
1896-97 Police Commissioner, New York City (resigned)
1897-98 Assistant Secretary of Navy (resigned)
1898 Lieutenant-Colonel Rough Riders
1898 Elected Governor
1900 Elected Vice-President
1901 Became President on death of President McKinley
1904 Elected President
1912 Defeated for President
Opponent: Augustus A. Van Wyck

36. BENJAMIN BARKER ODELL (Rep.)

1901-1904

Born, Newburgh, January 14, 1854
1895-99 Representative in Congress
1900-02 Elected Governor
Opponents: 1900 John B. Stanchfield (Dem.)
1902 Bird S. Coler (Dem.)

37. FRANK WAYLAND HIGGINS (Rep.)

1905-1906

Born, Allegany county, August 18, 1856
Died, Olean, February 12, 1907
1893-1902 State Senator
1902 Elected Lieutenant-Governor
1904 Elected Governor
Opponent: D. Cady Herrick (Dem.)

38. CHARLES EVANS HUGHES (Rep.)

1907-October 6, 1910

Born, Glens Falls, April 11, 1862
1906 Counsel Insurance Investigation
Elected Governor
1908 Re-elected Governor (resigned 1910)
1910-16 Justice United States Supreme Court (resigned)
1916 Defeated for President
Opponents: 1906 William R. Hearst (Dem.)
1908 Lewis S. Chanler (Dem.)

39. HORACE WHITE (Acting Governor) (Rep.)

October 6, 1910
December 31, 1910

Born, Buffalo, October 7, 1865
Became Acting Governor on appointment of Gov. Hughes
as Justice of U. S. Supreme Court
1896-08 State Senator
1908 Elected Lieutenant-Governor

40. JOHN ALDEN DIX (Dem.)

1911-1912

Born, Glens Falls, December 25, 1860
1908 Defeated for Lieutenant-Governor
1910 Elected Governor
Opponent: Henry L. Stimson (Rep.)

41. WILLIAM SULZER (Dem.)

January 1, 1913-October 17, 1913

Born, New Jersey, March 18, 1863
1890-94 Member of Assembly
1894 Speaker of Assembly
1895-1912 Representative in Congress
1912 Elected Governor
October 17, 1913 Impeached
1914 Member of Assembly
Opponents: Job E. Hedges (Rep.)
Oscar S. Strauss (Prog.)

42. MARTIN HENRY GLYNN (Acting Governor) (Dem.)

October 17, 1913-January 1, 1915

Born, Kinderhook, September 27, 1871
1899-1901 Representative in Congress
1906-08 Comptroller
1912 Elected Lieutenant-Governor
1913 Assumed office of Governor on impeachment of
Governor Sulzer

43. CHARLES SEYMOUR WHITMAN (Rep.)

1915-1918

Born, Connecticut, August 28, 1868
1890 Graduated Amherst College
1894 Graduated New York University Law School
1902 Assistant Corporation Counsel, New York City
1907 Court of General Sessions
1908 Deputy Attorney-General to investigate election
frauds
1909 Elected District Attorney, New York City
1913 Re-elected District Attorney
1914 Elected Governor
1916 Re-elected Governor
1918 Defeated for Governor
Opponents: 1914 Martin H. Glynn (Dem.)
F. M. Davenport (Prog.)
1916 Samuel Seabury (Dem.)
1918 Alfred E. Smith (Dem.)

44. ALFRED EMANUEL SMITH (Dem.)

1919-

Born, New York, December 30, 1873
1904-15 Member of Assembly
1913 Speaker of Assembly
1915 Member Constitutional Convention
1915 Elected Sheriff of New York County
1917 Elected President Board of Aldermen, New York
City
1918 Elected Governor
Opponent: Charles S. Whitman (Rep.)

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